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115.0005

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: L'Heureux  
Serial No.: 09/997,133  
Filed: November 29, 2001  
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR DATABASE SPACE CALCULATION  
AND ERROR DETECTION  
Group: 2133  
Examiner: Not Assigned Yet.

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Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
April 3, 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**Preliminary Amendment**

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Omitted Items in a Nonprovisional Application, dated  
March 19, 2002, please amend the above identified application as follows:

**In the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 7, with the following rewritten  
paragraph:

--Figs. 5A and 5B are a flow chart illustrating an exemplary SUB006 subroutine for use  
in conjunction with the method of Figs. 2A-2S;--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 18 with the following rewritten paragraph.:

--Turning to Fig. 1, this figure shows an IMS OSAM free space monitor system 100 in accordance with the present invention. System 100 includes a source of online transaction data 110, a mainframe computer 120, three disk storage memories, volumes, or disks 1, 2, and 3 130, 140, and 150, IMS OSAM collection process software 160 which includes standard IMS OSAM software modified to include the processes and subroutines taught in the present invention and discussed in detail below in connection with Figs. 2A-2S, 3, 4A-4C, 5A and 5B, 6, 7A and 7B, and an exception report generator 170, such as a printer or display, for providing an exception report to a user, such as exemplary email report 800 shown in Fig. 8 and discussed further below. In operation, data is provided to mainframe computer 120 from a data source or sources, such as the source of online transaction data 110. While a single source is shown for simplicity, it will be recognized that this source is exemplary only and may be representative of a large number of sources, such as store data reported for each Wal-Mart store, for example. To analyze such data, mainframe computer 120 employs database software. Large datasets are stored on one or more of the disks 130, 140, or 150 and processing is carried out. As addressed in greater detail below, the present invention provides techniques for accurately determining when the combined storage limits of the disks 130, 140, and 150 are approached and generating a report to alert a user. In a presently preferred embodiment, IMS OSAM collection process 160 automatically emails a user over a communication link 162, such as an Internet or intranet connection, that an exception exists, for example, that a threshold has been exceeded, the user can print this report on a printer or display the report on the display of a personal computer or the like. More importantly, the

user can take proactive steps to avoid exceeding the system memory capacity. For example, the user can purge data from the dataset or restructure it, for example, by splitting it.--

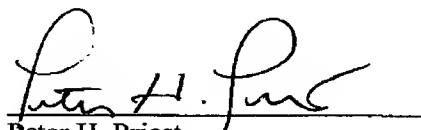
Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--SUB006 500 (Figs. 5A and 5B) -- Reads the output from a SUBLISTC and returns the following information -- gts flag and last volume.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Figs. 5A and 5B illustrate an exemplary subroutine SUB006 500 called by process 200. Having been called, subroutine 500 starts in step 502. Variables are initialized in initialize variables step 504. A sysprint record is read from the IEHLISTR subroutine 600, which is discussed further below, in step 506. The read record is reformatted in step 508 and the new variables for the reformatted record are returned to the calling module in step 510. Subroutine 500 ends in step 512.--

Respectfully submitted,



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE****In the specification**

Paragraph beginning at page 3, line 7 has been amended as follows:

Figs. 5A[-5C] and 5B are a flow chart illustrating an exemplary SUB006 subroutine for use in conjunction with the method of Figs. 2A-2S;

Paragraph beginning at page 4, line 18 has been amended as follows:

Turning to Fig. 1, this figure shows an IMS OSAM free space monitor system 100 in accordance with the present invention. System 100 includes a source of online transaction data 110, a mainframe computer 120, three disk storage memories, volumes, or disks 1, 2, and 3 130, 140, and 150, IMS OSAM collection process software 160 which includes standard IMS OSAM software modified to include the processes and subroutines taught in the present invention and discussed in detail below in connection with Figs. 2A-2S, 3, 4A-4C, 5A[-5C] and 5B, 6, 7A and 7B, and an exception report generator 170, such as a printer or display, for providing an exception report to a user, such as exemplary email report 800 shown in Fig. 8 and discussed further below. In operation, data is provided to mainframe computer 120 from a data source or sources, such as the source of online transaction data 110. While a single source is shown for simplicity, it will be recognized that this source is exemplary only and may be representative of a large number of sources, such as store data reported for each Wal-Mart store, for example. To analyze such data, mainframe computer 120 employs database software. Large datasets are stored on one or more of the disks 130, 140, or 150 and processing is carried out. As addressed in greater detail below, the present invention provides techniques for accurately determining when the combined storage limits of the disks 130, 140, and 150 are approached and generating a report to alert a user. In a presently preferred embodiment, IMS OSAM collection process 160

automatically emails a user over a communication link 162, such as an Internet or intranet connection, that an exception exists, for example, that a threshold has been exceeded, the user can print this report on a printer or display the report on the display of a personal computer or the like. More importantly, the user can take proactive steps to avoid exceeding the system memory capacity. For example, the user can purge data from the dataset or restructure it, for example, by splitting it.

Paragraph beginning at page 9, line 20 has been amended as follows:

SUB006 500 (Figs. 5A[-5C] and 5B) – Reads the output from a SUBLISTC and returns the following information – gts flag and last volume.

Paragraph beginning at page 15, line 19 has been amended as follows:

Figs. 5A[-5C] and 5B illustrate an exemplary subroutine SUB006 500 called by process 200. Having been called, subroutine 500 starts in step 502. Variables are initialized in initialize variables step 504. A sysprint record is read from the IEHLISTR subroutine 600, which is discussed further below, in step 506. The read record is reformatted in step 508 and the new variables for the reformatted record are returned to the calling module in step 510. Subroutine 500 ends in step 512.